

8-12-1988

News & Views - Vol. 06, No. 17 - August 12, 1988

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "News & Views - Vol. 06, No. 17 - August 12, 1988" (1988). 1983-1991, *News & Views*. Paper 83.
http://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews/83

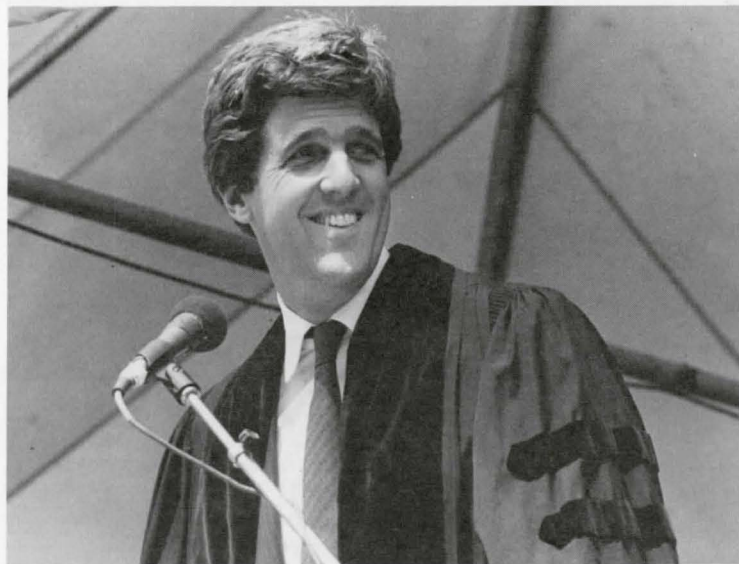
This University Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1983-1991, News & Views by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact libraryuasc@umb.edu.

UMASS BOSTON NEWS & VIEWS

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 17

AUGUST 12, 1988

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Senator John Kerry made a big hit delivering the 20th Commencement address at the Harbor Campus. (More Commencement photos, pages 2 & 4)

UMB graduates its 20th class at Commencement 1988

U.S. Senator John F. Kerry addressed 2021 UMass/Boston graduates amidst colorful ceremonies on the sun-soaked Harbor Campus. A capacity crowd of 6,000 was on hand in the Plaza for the 20th Commencement ceremonies.

Among those receiving degrees was Dorchester's David B. Carson, who became the first to receive a Ph.D. at the University. He is a graduate of the fledgling Environmental Science doctoral program.

There were 1685 receiving undergraduate degrees, with another 336 in graduate programs.

One of the extraordinary graduates was Trung T. Dung, who obtained a double major in Math and Computer Science. He is a Vietnam refugee who arrived here three years ago by himself after being one of the "boat people" in his embattled land. Dung took his G.E.D. and besides earning a B.S. degree in three years, has taken eight graduate courses (all with A's) in Computer Science. (See story, Page 2.)

Said Senator Kerry:

"I hope you will take the privilege of your hard-earned education, the love of your families and communities, the strength of your character and

together break down the walls, send forth a ripple of hope and create the future."

Noted Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan:

"We fly the flags of many nations along the road as you enter the campus to symbolize the diversity of national and ethnic backgrounds that have produced this graduating class of 1988.

"And we fly, alongside the U.S. flag and the flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a third banner, the symbol of the Covenant of Racial Harmony and Justice—a flag which has been flown for nine years, symbolizing for all who enter the campus that this is a place of decency and hope, an oasis of racial peace and of intellectual harmony in an institution where civilization flourishes. . .

"For the Class of 1988, I want to take this opportunity to address them directly and personally, because as they graduate, so do I. They leave their roles as UMass students to assume new jobs, take on new responsibilities, or undertake a graduate or professional degree program.

"I, too, am leaving my role as Chancellor after nine years to

□ continued on page 4

Dr. Sherry H. Penney named Chancellor at UMass/Boston

Dr. Sherry H. Penney, a professor and university administrator from New York, has been named Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts' Boston campus. She will assume responsibilities on September 1.

She succeeds current Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, who leaves August 31 to join the faculty at the Harbor Campus after nine year's service.

Chancellor Penney's appointment was announced by President David C. Knapp after a vote by the University's Board of Trustees. She will receive a salary of \$97,200 plus a monthly housing allowance of \$1,600.

Dr. Penney, 50, is the first woman to hold the Chancellor's position in the 24 years of the Boston campus.

"I can't wait until September," she said. "I'm thrilled to be here. This should be an interesting and exciting time for myself as well as for the institution."

Penney has been vice chancellor for academic programs, policy and planning at the State University of New York (SUNY) since 1982. She served as acting president of State University College in Plattsburgh, N.Y. from 1986-87, and was associate provost at Yale University from 1976-82.

Penney holds Ph.D., M.A. and B.A. degrees in American History from the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and Albion College, respectively.

"I am pleased that Sherry Penney will join the University as Chancellor of the Boston campus," said President Knapp. "She brings a distinguished background as an academic administrator at the State University of New York and Yale University, as well as impressive experience with national accrediting commissions throughout the country. We look forward to her leadership at this important stage in the development of the University."

Penney was selected after a six-month national search. In November,



New Chancellor Dr. Sherry H. Penney

President Knapp selected a 15-member advisory committee, including faculty and staff members, students, alumni and trustees, to recommend three finalists.

According to Prof. Leverett Zompa, a chemistry professor at the Harbor Campus and chairman of the committee, from more than 100 applicants, 14 candidates received preliminary review. Seven were announced in March and interviewed in a series of open sessions.

The names of the finalists were given to President Knapp in early May. They included Penney; Clinton B. Jones, Chancellor and professor of political science at The University of Michigan-Flint; and Russell C. Hamilton, Jr., dean of graduate studies and research at Vanderbilt University and chair of the Vanderbilt University Research Council.

"The search stressed openness to the University community," said Board of Trustees Chairman Andrew Knowles. "As a member of the search committee and as a trustee, I am pleased to have completed this search so swiftly and successfully. I feel tremendous enthusiasm for the campus' future under Sherry Penney's leadership."

□ continued on page 3

Trung T. Dung's road from Saigon leads to degree at UMB

In America, most 18-year old boys don't hear the clock ticking. They are not driven by a sense of urgency or the fear that life is slipping away.

Trung T. Dung did not grow up in America. He came here when he was 18, knowing little of the language, less of the culture, and far more than any American would want to know about survival.

After three years at UMass/Boston, Dung received a B.S. Degree honoring his double major in Mathematics and Computer Science.

Dung's academic achievements are remarkable. Not only did he complete the degree requirements ahead of schedule, but he has also taken eight graduate-level courses, earning A's in seven of them.

Next September, he will begin a teaching fellowship at Boston University while pursuing a Ph.D. in Computer Science. The Ph.D. course is projected as a five-year program.

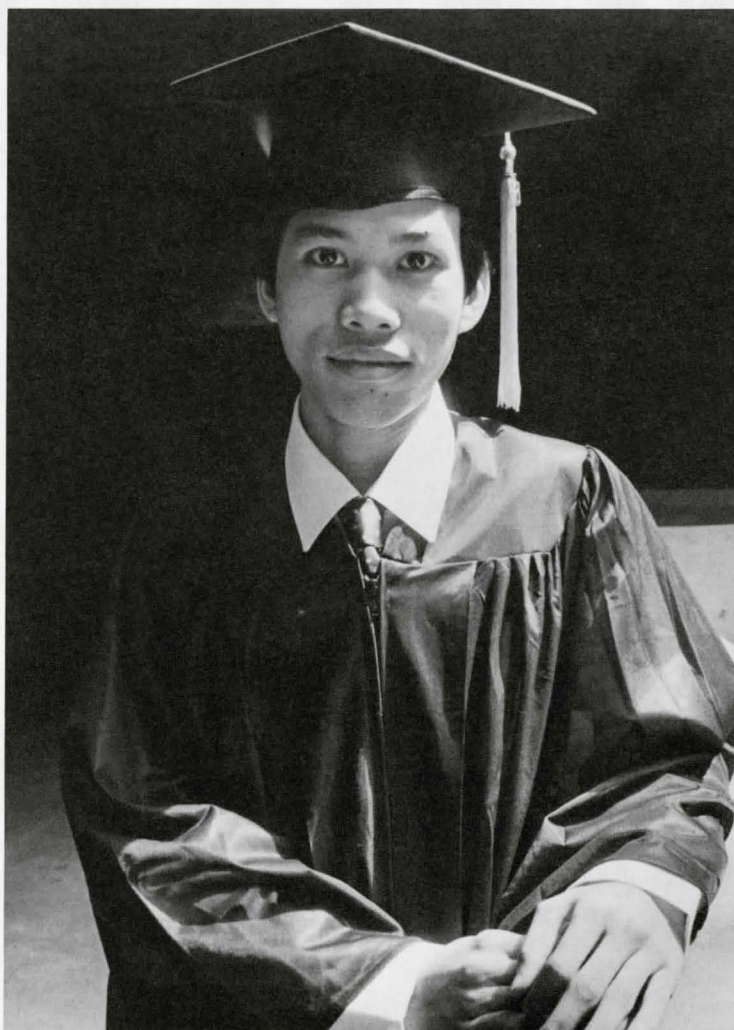
"I will finish it in three," Dung says.

American troops were pouring into his country when Dung was born in 1967. Home, in Saigon, was safe from the war when Trung was a little boy. But that changed in 1975, when the city fell to the Communists, and Trung's father, a government employee, was imprisoned.

At the age of eight, Trung, his two sisters and his mother were banished from their urban home and disposed to jungles of Vietnam, where they were told to live off the land.

"You would just try to get food for that day," Trung recalls, "without thinking about what you would eat the next day."

Nguyen Dung clung to the dream that her son would escape life under the thumb of Communism. Twice she sold the family's possessions and borrowed money to pay Black Market traders so that Trung could escape to Indonesia, where he might eventually gain passage to the United States. Twice the attempts failed, as young Trung and 130 other South Vietnamese crammed into a wooden fishing vessel were seized by the Communists.



Trung T. Dung

The second time Trung tried to run away on shore but was halted by gunfire overhead. He pauses often when describing the episode. "I still have nightmares," he says. Trung spent a month in jail, but his search for freedom didn't end.

Finally, when he was 17, Trung made it out of Vietnam. It was a five-day trip to Indonesia. When he arrived he was placed in a refugee camp on Galang Island sponsored by the United Nations. His sister, three years older, soon followed.

Trung studied English 16 hours a day at the camp and taught what he had learned to adults. After a year, he and his sister were granted political asylum in America. He arrived in Boston in May, 1985, and shared a one-bedroom apartment in Dorchester with two other Vietnamese. His sister got a room in the same building.

Finding a job and a school were Trung's top priorities. The former was no problem, what with the glut of menial labor chores available. School, however, proved

Trung passed a high-school equivalency exam and began taking courses at the Harbor Campus that summer.

His academic workload has been astounding — nine courses one semester, seven computer science in the fall of 1987, plus summer sessions. Between classes, Dung has worked at the University's computer lab and held a weekend maintenance job at New England Medical Center, in all, about 50 hours of work per week.

He and his sister and two friends now live in an apartment on Melbourne Street in Dorchester, but Trung claims he is seldom there. It is not unusual for him to work all night and sleep several hours in the morning in the University's library, he says.

"To go home and come back to school would take two hours," he adds. "I can't afford to waste that time."

This summer Dung will work on two projects at UMass/Boston and another at Textet Corporation in Arlington.

Trung has worked closely with UMB professors Peter Fejer and William Campbell. "They have been very kind to me," he says.

Dung's thirst to succeed is based upon the desire to be reunited with his family, although his father's chances for release are slim.

"I want to sponsor my mother and younger sister so they can come to this country," Trung says. "To do that, I have to prove that I am able to support them."

In time, he surely will.

troublesome when an immigration official suggested Trung would be a sophomore at Brighton High.

"I didn't have time for that," he says. "Two years of high school and then four years of college was too long."

Class of '38 honored



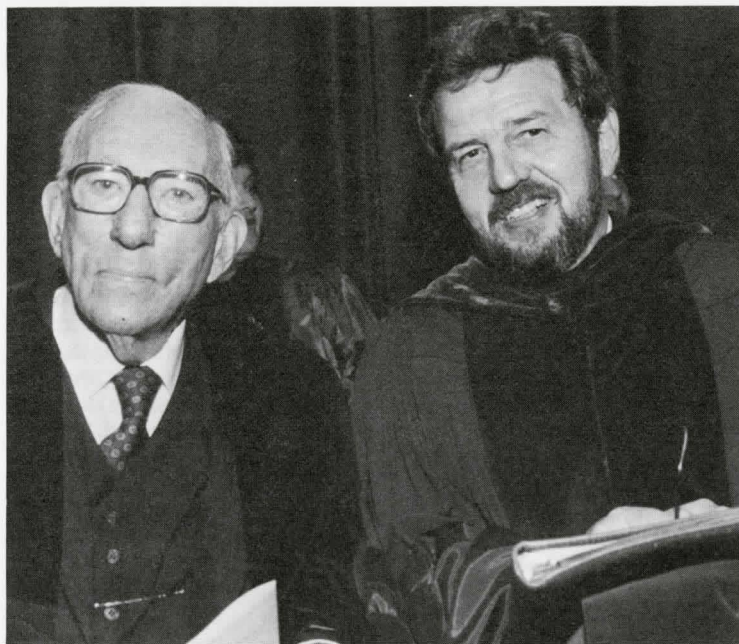
Class of 1938 from Boston Teacher's College were feted at 20th Commencement ceremonies. They had a great time.

News & Views is a bi-weekly publication of the UMass/Boston Office of Public Information. News items should be addressed to: Office of Public Information, Third Floor, Administration Building, Harbor Campus, Boston, MA 02125.

Director: D. Leo Monahan

Editor: Stephen Moniak

Assistant: Diane Vasseur



Congressman Claude Pepper sits with Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan during Gerontology Institute's eighth commencement.

Rep. Claude Pepper speaks at Gerontology graduation

"Home care" was the major topic of Congressman Claude D. Pepper's address to the eighth graduating class of UMass/Boston's Gerontology Institute, held at the John F. Kennedy Library.

Congressman Pepper, 87, longtime advocate of elderly affairs, won a standing ovation from the 60 graduates, their relatives and friends when he made a belated entrance to the packed auditorium after a traffic delay from Logan Airport.

Congressman Pepper (D-Fla.) said legislation to provide long-term care in the home "is cheaper and more desirable".

Medicare, he pointed out, covers only 60 days. A catastrophic illness bill would extend hospital coverage up to a year if needed.

"Of all the industrial nations in the world, only the United States and South Africa do not have a system of comprehensive health care," he said.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan awarded Pepper an honorary degree and called him "the very model of an energetic, active, effective person we all wish to be and wish to become."

Professor Scott Bass, director of the Gerontology Institute, directed commencement activities.

Desmond, Cooney honored with Chancellor's Medal

The prestigious Chancellor's Medal for extraordinary service was awarded at Commencement to Charles Desmond, longtime Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and acting Dean of the College of Community Service and to Dr. Joseph Cooney, Director of the Environmental Sciences Ph.D. Program and planner for the Urban Harbor Institute.

Also feted for distinguished scholarship were Professor Manikam Sugumaran and author/English professor Mary Helen Washington, who was traveling and couldn't make the ceremony.

Said Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, honoring Desmond: "No one has been stronger in his devotion, greater in his talents or more loyal to the mission of UMass/Boston."

Honoring Dr. Cooney, he said: "Joe Cooney was brought to this campus when all we had was a good idea and the promise of funding. He leaves the Directorship in December, having put together a million dollar program recognized for its quality throughout the Commonwealth, one which is about to take on major federal funding for an Urban Harbors Institute."

IN MEMORIAM Frederick S. (Barney) Troy

An overflow crowd at Boston's Waterman Funeral Home paid final tribute to longtime University trustee Frederick Sherman (Barney) Troy, who died June 29 at the age of 79 while lunching with friends at the St. Botolph Club.

"Barney's life for the past 60 years as student, professor and trustee was completely intertwined with the life of the University," said President David C. Knapp.

"His contributions have been enormous. In recognition, the university bestowed some of its highest honors upon him and in his name: Honorary Professor of the University, the Frederick S. Troy Alumni Achievement Award, the Troy Visiting Professor in English at the Amherst campus and the Troy Reading Room and Colloquium Center at the Boston campus."

Famed author William Manchester, a recipient of the alumni award, said:

"I have studied at three universities and have long been associated with a fourth. I have never known a teacher who brought such vigor, such clarity and such passion to the classroom."

Speakers at the jam-packed funeral service included President Knapp, former University presidents Robert C. Wood and Franklin K. (Pat) Patterson, Amherst Chancellor Joseph Duffey and longtime colleague and teaching associate Prof.



Frederick S. (Barney) Troy

Alvan Ryan, who traced their friendship back to the late 1920s when Troy, an Arlington native, enrolled at what was then called Massachusetts Agricultural College (Mass Aggie).

Troy received a master's degree in English from Amherst College in 1935. During World War II he served in the Merchant Marines as a seaman. He sustained a serious injury to his right leg.

He served 24 years as a member of the Board of Trustees. Chairman Andrew Knowles called him the university's "spiritual academic leader. We'll miss him. He was our trustee-historian."

Dr. Penney named new Chancellor

□ continued from page 1

Penney will assume the leadership of a 14,000-student campus that is nationally recognized as an urban university and for the non-traditional student.

UMass/Boston offers more than 75 undergraduate and graduate programs. Among its colleges and institutions is the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, which works with local governments to develop programs in housing, juvenile justice and industrial finance.

About 60 percent of the special programs in Boston's public schools are conducted by UMass/Boston's Institute for Learning and Teaching. UMass/Boston also has become nationally recognized for its environmental science program and

recently was awarded \$1.1 million from the federal government to study the Boston Harbor.

Said Penney: "I'm leaving a system with 370,000 students and 64 campuses. I expect I'll spend a lot of time just listening - to the students, the faculty, the regents and our legislative leadership. My vision is to make this University the best it can be."

Penney is married and the mother of five. She made a quickie visit to the Boston campus early in June to meet with department heads and administrative leaders.

UMass/Boston celebrates 20th Commencement

□ *continued from page 1*
return to my first love – to teaching and to research. I remain at UMass/Boston, even as they leave, but in stepping down as Chancellor I feel somehow that I am graduating with them. As a member of the Class of 1988, if you will, who has taken nine years to complete his academic program – but so have some of them!"

"I take pride – great pride in this institution, and pride – fierce pride – in you the members of the Class of 1988.

"In many ways you are like our young University, which has had to struggle for every advantage it has

gained, but it has persevered and so have you. It has at long last established itself as one of the pre-eminent public urban universities just as you have established your credentials as learned and gifted individuals. . . But it has not been easy for any of us to reach this day."

In addition to Senator Kerry, others awarded honorary degrees were:

- William Davis Taylor, former Chairman of the Board, Affiliated Publications, Inc., parent corporation of *The Boston Globe*. Mr. Taylor has been with *The Globe* for 57 years and remains a member of the Board of Directors.

- Bernard J. O'Keefe, 70, Chairman of the Board of EG & G, an electronics firm he helped found.

- Ronald A. Homer, Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Boston Bank of Commerce. He came to the bank in 1983 after service with two New York banks and has increased its assets five fold.

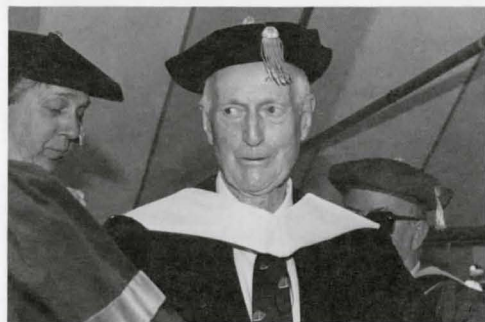
- Dr. Claire Van Ummersen, Chancellor of New Hampshire's University System. She served as Interim Chancellor at UMass/Boston, February, 1978 through July, 1979, and has a distinguished academic career. She held a variety of positions at UMass/Boston and, later, with the Massachusetts Board

of Regents of Higher Education.

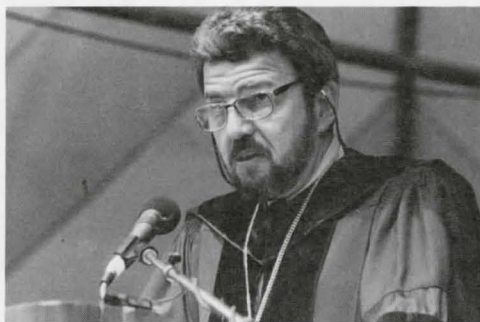
- The late Dr. Paul M. Fye, fourth Director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution who died at age 75 in March. The posthumous degree was accepted by his widow, Mrs. Ruth Fye.

The largest block of undergraduates (765) came from the College of Arts and Sciences, with 450 from the College of Management and 180 from Nursing. There were 100 who earned graduate degrees as Masters of Science and 50 took Master of Business Administration degrees.

This marks UMass/Boston's 24th academic year.



William Davis Taylor of *The Boston Globe* is bedecked by Vice-Chancellor Donald Babcock, left, and Trustee Andrew Knowles.



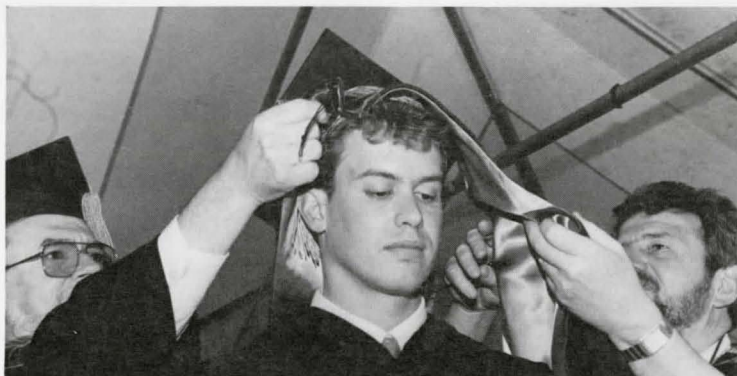
Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan addresses Commencement audience on the Plaza at the UMass/Boston Harbor Campus.



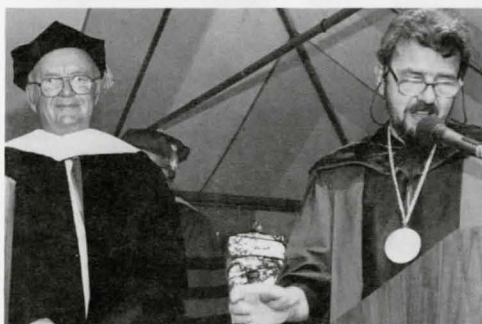
Dr. Claire A. Van Ummersen, Chancellor, University System of New Hampshire, receives honorary degree.



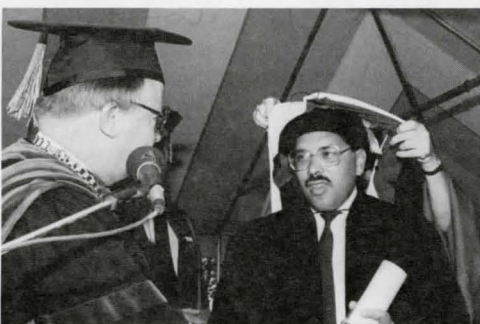
Eight members of the retiring faculty were on hand to accept plaudits for the stage party. Left to right, professors James Blackwell, Sociology; Francis Murphy, ILT; Ernest Lynton, McCormack Institute; James Broderick, English; Thomas Brown, History; Bernard Stotsky, Psychology; Daisy Tagliacozzo, Sociology; and Bettina Harrison, Biology.



First Ph.D. recipient in Environmental Sciences, Dr. David B. Carson was robed by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, right, and Dr. Joseph Cooney, who directs the graduate program.



Bernard O'Keefe, Chairman of the Board, EG & G Co., received an honorary degree. At right, Chancellor Robert Corrigan.



Ronald A. Homer, President of the Boston Bank of Commerce, accepted honorary degree from President David C. Knapp.



Andrew Knowles, Chairman, Board of Trustees, presented posthumous honorary degree to Paul Fye, late President of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. It was accepted by his widow Mrs. Ruth Fye.